

PHEASEY AND PADDOCK LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Tuesday, 5th September, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

at Beacon Church, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey

Present

Councillor Barry Sanders (Chairman)
Mr. Fred Bell
Councillor Mike Bird
Mr. Gary Brookes
Ms. Sharon Froggatt
Councillor Rose Martin
Mr. John Punch
Mrs. Jeet Sohal
Councillor Chris Towe
Councillor Zahid Ali

121/06

Apologies

There were no apologies submitted for non-attendance at the meeting.

122/06

Introductions

Members of the Partnership introduced themselves.

123/06

Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved

- (1) That Yvette Sheward be appointed Vice-Chair drawn from the WBSP partners for the year 2006/07;
- (2) That the Vice-Chair drawn from the local appointed partners be deferred until the next selection process had been completed.

Minutes**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July, 2006, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Partnership, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

In agreeing the minutes, Partnership Members received the following updates:-

Arboretum User Group

It was noted that the request for £1500 had been approved and a grant agreement was currently awaiting return. Once returned, monies would be released in 2 phases £750 each time. The first instalment in advance and the second instalment following confirmation of expenditure of 1st instalment.

Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre

It was noted that the external funding team had met with the secretary and had discussed the infrastructure of the association, made suggestions to update the constitution and initiate new ways of utilising premises in order that external funding can be explored.

Neighbourhood Watch Pheasey

Ward Councillors updated the LNP on the current position with regard to the establishment of a Pheasey Neighbourhood Watch. A meeting had taken place with Inspector Byrne, who was aware of the situation, and anxious to progress this.

Closure of Three Crowns School

The LNP noted that the future of the land and property was still being considered and it was envisaged that local residents (including Orchard Hills Neighbourhood Watch and Community Forum) would be consulted in September on the proposals. The consultations to include the LNP.

During the discussion, the LNP were concerned that a licence appeared to have been granted for a hot food van outside the school which they did not feel was appropriate. Judith Sunley, the Senior Support Officer, undertook to look into this and advise the Ward Councillors.

125/06 **Declarations of interest**

Mr. John Punch, a Locally Appointed Partner, declared a personal interest in items relating to the Three Crowns School.

126/06 **Petitions**

There were no petitions submitted.

127/06 **Local Accessibility Action Plan**

A report and Action Plan was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Marie Newton, the Principal Regeneration Officer for Transport Strategy, addressed the LNP and explained that the Local Accessibility Action Plan (LAAP) looked at access to key services such as learning, employment, health care and affordable food.

A lengthy debate took place on the presentation and Marie Newton responded to questions and points of clarification from Members and the public, during which time, she confirmed that Accord Housing would be asked for a nomination to the LAAP Working Party and also that Walsall was being designated as an air quality management area. Of particular concern to Members was that because car parking charges in Birmingham were so high, cars were parked along Birmingham Road. The Scott Arms car park had become an unofficial “park and ride” and Charlemont Road and surrounding area was also being used for such parking.

A member of the public raised a concern with the lack of car parking in Walsall Town Centre. A number of his neighbours could not park close enough and struggled with shopping on the bus. He asked whether there were any long term thoughts about the provision of a multi-storey car park in Walsall. Marie Newton pointed out that a major review of parking was ongoing. A further debate took place in respect of the action plan, during which time, Councillor Bird commented that there appeared to be no support for car users, even though 64% of households had a car. He requested that due cognisance be taken within the plan of the 64% of households who had a car.

Julie Ball, Head of Neighbourhood Partnerships, responded to a question from Members in respect of the make up of the Local Accessibility Action Plan Working Group in that there did not appear to be Member involvement. She responded by saying that the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team pulled together information from all of the LNPs and fed the views back.

The Chairman thanked Marie for her presentation and asked both Members and members of the public to complete the questionnaire circulated and return it as soon as possible.

Health Centre - Paddock

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman advised Members that he had had a meeting with Paul Jennings, the Chief Executive of the tPCT who had indicated that he would undertake a health needs assessment within Orchard Hills, Park Hall and the surrounding area in respect of the possibility of providing a health centre in that area.

128/06

Public forum

Arboretum User Group

The Vice-Chair of the User Group confirmed that the request for funding application form had been returned to the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team. The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Mr. Randhawa, confirmed that the application was being processed. Mr. Stan Sims, of the Arboretum User Group, agreed that he would present the outcome of the allocation and how it had been spent in due course.

Traffic congestion - Broadway North

Mr. John Punch, Locally Appointed Partner, said that at a recent Governor's meeting, a presentation had been received on the new ring road scheme. He asked, in view of the traffic congestion around the Broadway particularly in the morning, whether the Broadway could be made four lanes while the works to the ring road were being undertaken. He also asked whether the traffic lights on the Broadway could be changed to ease the congestion. He said that these comments, and others, had been forwarded to the relevant officer at the Council but that he had received no response.

Resolved

That Mr. Keith Stone, Assistant Director for the Built Environment, and Councillor Walker, the Portfolio holder attend the next LNP meeting.

Councillor Bird requested a reply to these issues to the Chair within seven days.

Councillor Martin was also concerned in respect of the possibility of traffic calming around Greaves Avenue and Skip Lane.

129/06

Community Action Groups - Update

A report providing an update on the progress of the Community Action Groups was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Towe, as Chairman of the Safer and Stronger CAG, gave feedback in respect of the meeting held on 6th July which he said was well supported.

Councillor Martin and the Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Mr. Randhawa, updated the LNP on the outcome of the 7th August meeting. The LNP were advised that the main concern was in respect of the provision of a mobile breast screening unit at the Collingwood Centre which would require the removal or modification of two gate posts at an estimated £8,000. This did not fall within the current LNP funding criteria and, therefore, the LNP would be unable to fund these works.

There was mention at the Community Action Group of a site visit being made to the Broadway Centre to look at whether that could be used for the screening unit and a further update would be given to the CAG in due course. During the discussion, Members expressed concern in respect of the possible funding shortfall that the Collingwood Centre was facing. They felt that guidance on delivering youth services had been misinterpreted with resources being targeted solely at the 13 - 19 age group. This was impacting on the perceived sustainability of the Centre and, therefore, affecting investment. It was agreed that this be further discussed at the Health and People Community Action Group on 4th October, 2006 and feedback be brought to the 24th October LNP meeting.

130/06

Funding Report

A report informing the LNP of the progress on projects that the LNP had agreed to fund to date was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Mr. Randhawa, introduced the report. The Senior Support Officer, Judith Sunley, pointed out to Members that she had already sent to them a sample of the "menu/basket of environmental improvement measures" which was for noting at that stage and a further, more detailed list would be circulated in due course. A discussion took place on potential projects, including:-

- “No ball games” and “No cycling” signs at Park Hall/Gillity shopping centre (signs to be erected on Council land)
- Information board/community notice board at the NISA store on Pheasey Park Farm to enable community notices to be more widely available
- Provision of solar lights along the public right of way between Greenslade Avenue and Park Hall Junior School

During the discussion, concern was raised in respect of the maintenance programme for highway trees which was resulting in the leaves choking the drains. This, together with resident’s replacing front gardens (semi-permeable areas) with hard surfacing resulting in increased surface water into the drainage system, was causing a problem in the Pheasey and Paddock area.

In response to a question from Councillor Bird, the Lead Officer, Judith Sunley, confirmed that LNP funding was to enhance and not replace core service provision.

At this point, the Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer, Mr. Randhawa, circulated a briefing note on the funding criteria.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress on projects be noted;
- (2) That the potential projects identified in the report be approved and those identified during the discussion be investigated.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman

Date